



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR CITY OF LOS INDIOS

**LOS INDIOS, TEXAS, October 20, 2005**—State Director Bryan Daniel today announced the City of Los Indios will receive \$432,695 in USDA Rural Development grant assistance under the Broadband Community Connect Grant program. To highlight this event, a ceremonial check will be presented to Diamantina Bennett, Mayor, City of Los Indios.

“USDA Rural Development in Texas is delighted to provide the City of Los Indios with a Broadband Community Connect Grant this year,” said Daniel. “This announcement furthers the President’s goal to provide all Americans with access to broadband technology.”

The City of Los Indios project will improve education, healthcare, security, and the overall economy in the communities. Free broadband service will be provided to critical community facilities. The City also has plans to create and operate a community center that provides public access points, free broadband access, an e-commerce incubator for small businesses, distance learning, and professional certifications to community residents. The communities, small businesses, and residents will be empowered to unite efforts by utilizing private and public partnerships to create long-term sustainability for economic development.

Since its inception four years ago, the Community Connect Broadband program has provided 109 grants and invested over \$39 million to provide service to local communities. Communities selected do not have access to broadband technology for essential services including police protection, fire service, hospitals, libraries and schools. The program supplements USDA Rural Development’s standard high-speed telecommunications loan program.

USDA Rural Development is dedicated to increasing homeownership opportunities, promoting business development, and improving community and technology infrastructure. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, call the San Benito Local Office or visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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